



BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

BOSTON, MASS. 02129

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Code 103

20 December 1973

From: Commander, Boston Naval Shipyard
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
Subj: Command History of the Boston Naval Shipyard, 1 JAN 1972 - 1 DEC 1972
OPNAV Report 5750-1
Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12B of 20 May 1971
Encl: (1) Subject Report
1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in compliance with reference (a).

FOR

R. L. ARTHUR
CAPTAIN, USN
COMMANDER, BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

Copy to:
NAVSHIPS (SHIPS 0731)

BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

COMMAND HISTORY

1 JANUARY 1972 - 1 DECEMBER 1972

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed R. Arthur", written over a horizontal line.

FOR

R. L. ARTHUR
CAPTAIN, USN
COMMANDER, BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD

OPNAV REPORT 5750-1

COMMAND HISTORY

I. Command Organization

Rear Admiral Raymond W. Burk, USN, who assumed command of the Boston Naval Shipyard on 9 October 1969, relinquished command on 25 August 1972 to Captain Russel L. Arthur, USN. Captain Arthur reported to Boston from NAVSHIPS Headquarters where he was Executive Director for Fleet Maintenance.

The Shipyard proper is located in Charlestown, Massachusetts (mailing address is Boston, Massachusetts) with an annex in South Boston.

The official mission assigned to this Shipyard by the Secretary of the Navy is: "To provide logistic support for assigned ships and service craft; to perform authorized work in connection with construction, conversion, overhaul, repair, alteration, drydocking, and outfitting of ships and craft, as assigned; to perform manufacturing, research, development, and test work, as assigned; and to provide services and material to other activities and units, as directed by competent authority."

The Shipyard organization consists of the following:

Code 100 - Office of the Shipyard Commander

Code 110 - Data Processing Office

Code 130 - Quality Assurance Office

Code 140 - Management Engineering Office

Code 150 - Industrial Relations Office

Code 190 - Combat Systems Office

Code 200 - Planning Department

Code 300 - Production Department

Code 400 - Public Works Department

Code 500 - Supply Department

Code 600 - Comptroller Department

Code 700 - Medical Department

Code 750 - Dental Department

Code 800 - Administrative Department

Code 1102 - Supship One

Code 1900 - Director of CASDO

Code 2400 - Director of PERA (ASW)

The complement as of 31 December 1972 was:

Officer - 70

Enlisted - 94

Civilian - 5293

II. Summary of Operations and Events.

JANUARY

After being laid up for nearly two months in Drydock No. 2 for overhaul, the caisson Drydock No. 3 crossed the sill on schedule. A combination of manpower and a tow from an LCM brought the caisson out into open water. At that point, she was towed across the water to South Boston and there put into place, with the result that Drydocks No. 2 and 3 are again open for business.

With the completion of regular overhauls of USS BROWNSON and USS WARRINGTON and the fitting-out of USS ELMER MONTGOMERY, the Boston Naval Shipyard completed two full years without missing a single ship completion date.

A 5.5 percent pay increase for white-collar (graded) Federal employees was signed into law by the President on 22 December 1971 and went into effect with the pay period beginning 8 January 1972.

The Shipyard's Medical Department conducted sickle cell tests for concerned Navy personnel and extended an opportunity to concerned civilian personnel on a voluntary basis.

The Boston Naval Shipyard sent more than 3,000 pounds of clothing, desks, school supplies, games and dolls to Vietnamese Navy dependents living on Binh Ba Island, Vietnam.

Shipyard divers attached to the Rigger Shop responded to a request for assistance from the Natick Fire Department in search of a seven-year old boy who had disappeared from his home and was feared drowned in the partially ice-covered lake. Search was in vain.

FEBRUARY

A new divers Boat was launched this month. It is used by Shipyard riggers during underwater inspections of ships' hulls, underwater machinery, piers and wharfs and serves to recover lost articles which have gone overboard from ships or piers. This diving boat was originally an LCM with two marine diesels. Obtaining the LCM (from Norfolk) and converting it into a diving boat was a joint project of the Plant Equipment and Facilities Branch and the Service Group shops and staff.

A revised and updated Shipyard Modernization Program for Boston was announced by the Shipyard Commander. The Modernization Plan was developed by an intensive planning effort through the end of April and was finalized in Naval Ship Systems Command by June 1, 1972. The plan supported and justified both Military Construction projects and major industrial equipment requirements to modernize the Shipyard over a 5 to 8 year period, beginning in fiscal year 1974 or 1975.

A significant reduction in civilian employment at the Boston Naval Shipyard was announced by the Shipyard Commander on 19 February 1972. This reduction meant that the Shipyard reach an employment level of 5,317 during the last quarter of fiscal year (April - June 1972). The cut-back is required in order to achieve Fiscal Year 1972 Budget and Manpower and strengths which are based upon reduced workload requirements resulting from fewer ships in the fleet.

A letter of commendation for the Shipyard's performance in the completing of the overhaul of USS NIPMUC (ATE-157) was received from the Commander of Service Squadron Eight.

MARCH

The new controllable pitch propeller was installed by the Shipyard on USS PATTERSON (DE-1061). This multi-million dollar research and development project is extremely important to the Navy's future plans, since future generation destroyers will be powered by gas-turbine engines and therefore must have controllable pitch, rather than conventional, propeller systems.

On March 18, 1972, the Boston Naval Shipyard assisted in the commissioning of USS McCANDLESS (DE-1084). Vice Admiral John Marshall Lee, USN, Assistant Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for Weapons Evaluation and Control, was the principal speaker.

On 31 March 1972 the Boston Naval Shipyard held a ceremony to mark the "National Week of Concern for Americans who are Prisoners of War or Missing in Action". The Shipyard Commander read the President's Proclamation and spoke briefly to the gathering of Shipyard personnel who were in attendance at the ceremony.

APRIL

Shipyard Commander, Captain R. W. Burk, USN, was "frocked" which authorized him to wear flag rank uniform and fly the two-star flag of a Rear Admiral.

The Shipyard Commander was assigned additional and special duty by the Chief of Naval Material and Commander of Naval Ship Systems Command. The assignment involved contact with officials in all Naval Shipyards with special emphasis on productivity and management of overtime.

Top level changes in the Supply and Comptroller Departments were made when Captain Gordon E. Welch, USN, SC, USN, Shipyard Supply Officer since August 1970, retired after 33 years in the Navy. Captain John T. Robison, SC, USN, who had been the Shipyard Comptroller since July 1969, became the new Supply Officer.

Another first for the Forge Shop. It was awarded its biggest job in many years in being assigned the manufacture of the chain and anchors of the new carrier NIMITZ (CVAN-68) under construction at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydocking Company.

Rear Admiral Thomas R. Weschler, USN, Commander, Cruiser- Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet, commended the Boston Naval Shipyard on "the exceptional performance of USS LUCE (DLG-14) and Boston Naval Shipyard in completing the Post-Shakedown Availability on schedule even when faced with major last-minute problems".

MAY

Mr. Harry DeNapoli was promoted to Head, Electronics Shop on May 28, 1972.

On 13 May 1972, the Boston Naval Shipyard assisted in the commissioning of USS MOUNT VERNON (LSD-39). The principal speaker was the Honorable Barry J. Shillito, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics).

The Commanding Officer of USS PATTERSON (DE-1061) congratulated the Shipyard on an undocking and berthing of his ship. In a later message the PATTERSON expressed appreciation for rapid, professional response and assistance and advise for successful containment and ultimate clean-up of another problem.

JUNE

USS CONSTITUTION (IX-21) made her annual "Turn-Around Cruise" on 14 June. Aboard her during the two-hour voyage on Flag Day were 200 teenagers representing nearly every state in the Nation.

"Third Generation" Computer was installed at this Shipyard. This computer which officially is Honeywell Model 6060 Multi-dimensional Information System Computer was delivered to the Shipyard and housed in a trailer behind the Administration Building.

The Brotherhood Award, Equal Employment Opportunity Award, was presented to the Shipyard Commander by the yard's Minority Employees Council.

The German Ship FGNS ROMMEL (D-187) commended the Boston Naval Shipyard for outstanding assistance and all the kind hospitality that made their visit to Boston so enjoyable.

JULY

On 22 July, the Donald B. Beary (DE-1085) was commissioned at the Boston Naval Shipyard. Principal speaker at the ceremonies was Congressman Richard G. Shoup of Montana.

AUGUST

On 25 August, Rear Admiral Raymond W. Burk, USN, who had been the Shipyard Commander since 9 October 1969, was relieved of command of the Boston Naval Shipyard by Captain Russel L. Arthur, USN. Captain Arthur reported to Boston from Naval Ship Systems Command where he was Executive Director for Fleet Maintenance. Admiral Burk was assigned to the Naval Ship Systems Command at Washington as Deputy Commander for Shipyard Management and Program Director for Shipyard Modernization. (see enclosure 1)

Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy, Joseph A. Grimes, visited the Shipyard and witnessed a new type of oil skimmer.

On 26 August, the Shipyard celebrated its 172nd birthday. The festivities included an outdoor "Neath the Apple Tree Party" held in the vicinity of the Shipyard Commander's Quarters. Officer personnel and their wives entertained Top Civilian personnel and their wives.

SEPTEMBER

The Boston Naval Shipyard was named the homeport for the cruiser USS ALBANY (CG-10) effective 1 September 1972.

Boston Naval Shipyard's first class of Worker-Trainees were graduated to Apprentices. This first class proved that the new program can and does train the disadvantaged and untrained so that they can move onto the next step towards their goal of a skilled trade.

The Boston Naval Shipyard assisted in the Transfer of USS COMPTON (DD-705) to the Government of Brazil.

OCTOBER

Special guest at the Shipyard's annual Fire Prevention Week Parade was Maestro Arthur Fiedler, Conductor of the Boston "Pops" Orchestra. Mr. Fiedler was named an Honorary Chief of the Shipyard Fire Department.

Special plans were rapidly taking shape for specific projects, the first of which will be an extension of Building 104.

Graduating exercises were held on 25 October for 73 apprentices who received their diplomas signifying that they were, after four years of alternating periods of classroom study and shop and shipboard work, full-fledged artisans in the trades of their choice.

The Combined Federal Campaign, which was held from 5 October to 20 October, resulted in a total contribution of \$60,443.20 from Shipyard personnel for a participation rate of 85.5 percent.

The Commanding Officer of USS DONALD B. BEARY (DE-1085) commended the Boston Naval Shipyard for outstanding workmanship during her commissioning and fitting out availability completion.

Commendations were received from: Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Naval Material, Naval Ship Systems Command, the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet, the Commander of Naval Forces in Atlantic, the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and the FORRESTAL for the outstanding performance of the many skilled personnel who assisted in the successful and early completion of FORRESTAL fire damage restoration.

NOVEMBER

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from September 1968 to July 1972 while serving in the Naval Ship Systems Command, Captain R. L. Arthur, USN, Shipyard Commander, earned a gold star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit. It was presented on 7 November by

Rear Admiral R. W. Burk, USN, former Shipyard Commander and presently Deputy Commander of the Naval Ship Systems Command of Washington. During the period cited, Captain Arthur served consecutively as Project Manager, Landing Ships, Boats and Amphibians, and as Executive Director of the Fleet Maintenance and Logistics Support Directorate in Naval Ship Systems Command. (see enclosure 2)

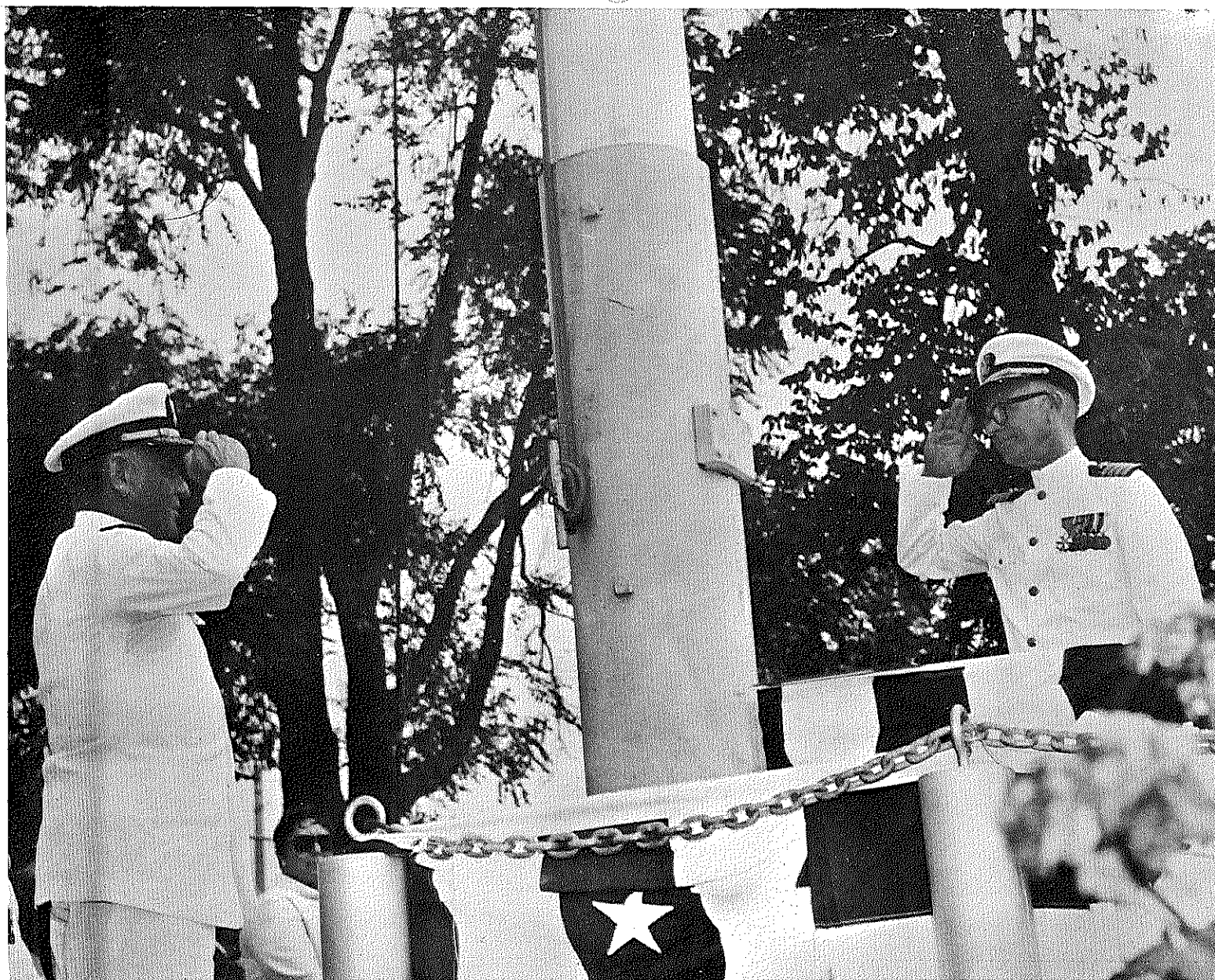
DECEMBER

The Boston Naval Shipyard assisted in the commissioning of USS FORT FISHER (LSD-40) on 9 December 1972. The principal speaker for the occasion was Lieutenant General Hugh M. Elwood, USMC, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, United States Marine Corps.

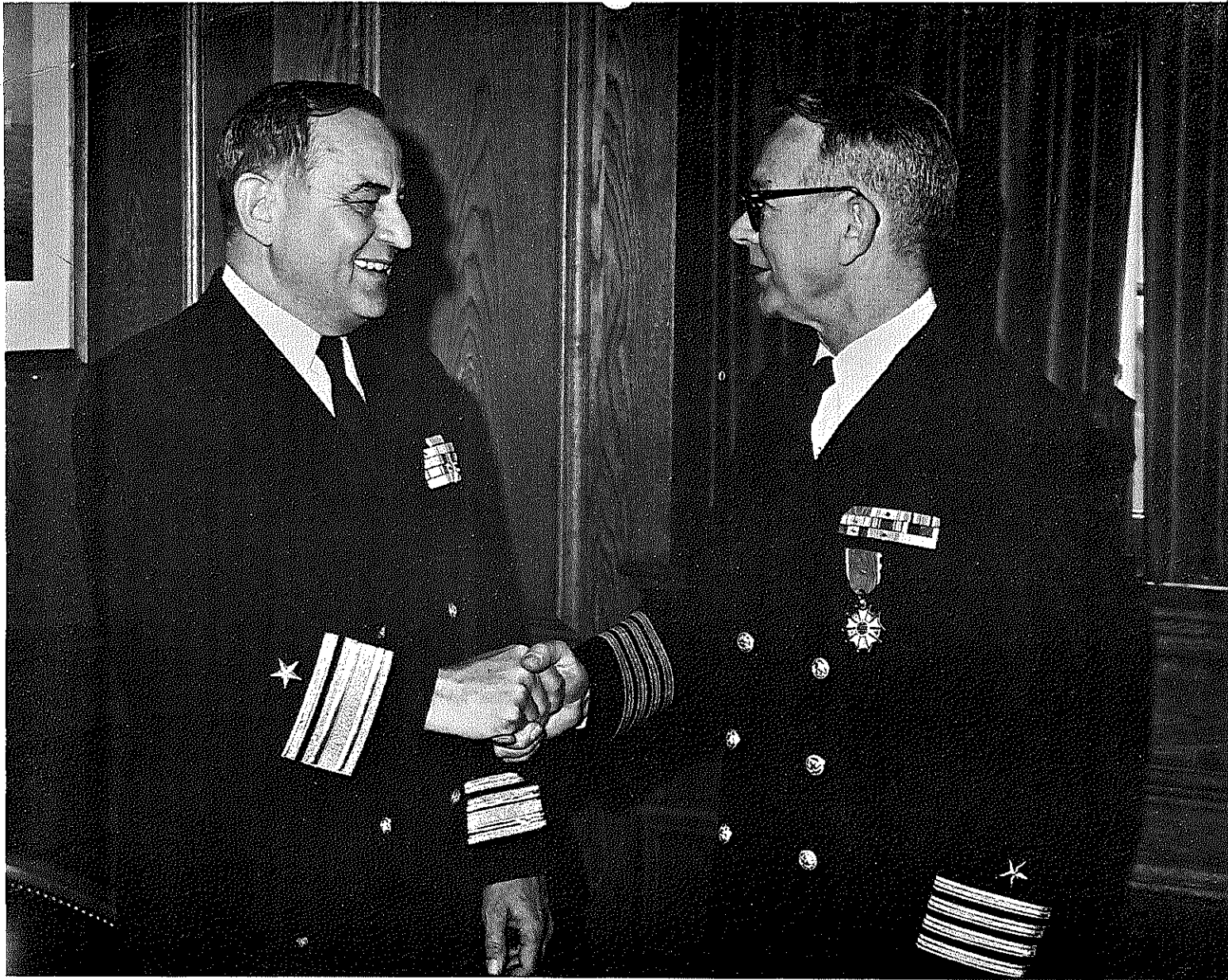
Sixty-four underprivileged children were the special guests of the Shipyard on 19 December at separate Christmas parties for needy children. The Shipyard also collected and expended \$5,630.00 donated by Shipyard personnel. This donation was distributed among various charities such as: Salvation Army, Home for Little Wanderers, Perkins School for the Blind, Globe Santa, Children's Burn Center, and others.

On 13 December 1972, Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN, Chief of Naval Operations visited the Boston Naval Shipyard. Admiral Zumwalt toured the newly commissioned USS FORT FISHER (LSD-40) to "rap" for nearly an hour with more than 700 Navy men and women of all ranks and rates.

Three Canadian ships visited the Boston Naval Shipyard and were berthed at the South Boston Annex. HMCS FRASER (DDH-223), commanded by Commander C. W. Thomas arrived on 8 December. HMCS NIPIGON (DDH-26) commanded by Commander D. A. Avery, arrived on 11 December. HMCS YUKON (DDE-263) commanded by Commander C. Cotoras arrived also on 11 December. Aboard NIPIGON was the Commanding Officer of Canada's Destroyer Squadron ONE, Captain A. C. McMillan.



Captain Russel L. Arthur, USN accepts command of the Boston Naval Shipyard from Rear Admiral Raymond W. Burk, USN on 25 August 1972.
(Enclosure 1)



Captain Russel L. Arthur, USN, Shipyard Commander, is congratulated by Rear Admiral Raymond W. Burk, USN upon being presented a Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit on 7 November 1972.

(Enclosure 2)